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The Psychological Theory Behind the Epistemology of Disinformation

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Psychological Patterns of Disinformation



PRESENTER:
Sarah Gillen

Background:
Disinformation is weaponized in political campaigns deliberately confusing people in an effort to increase the likelihood of bringing one's political agenda to the public's attention.

METHODS

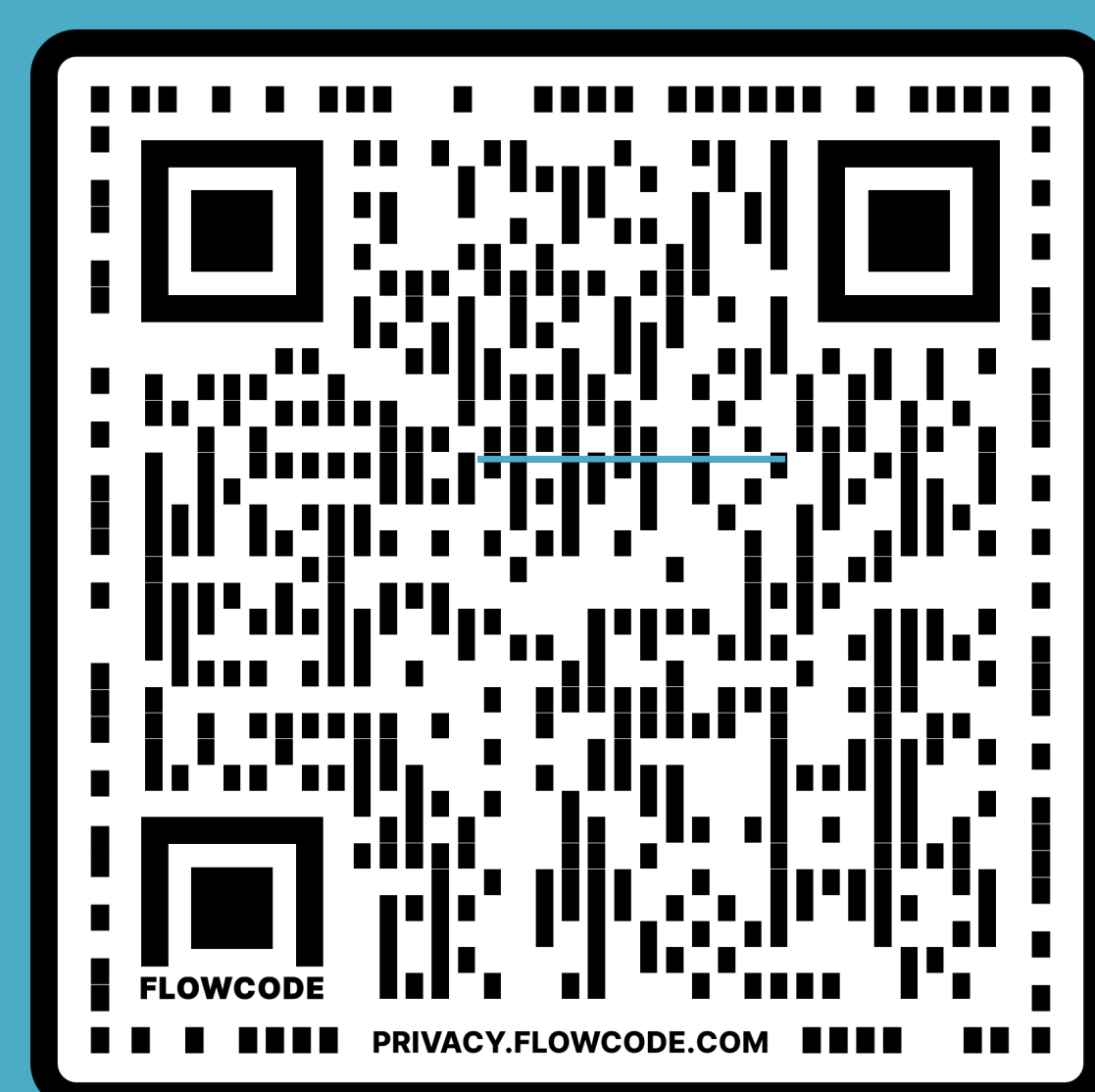
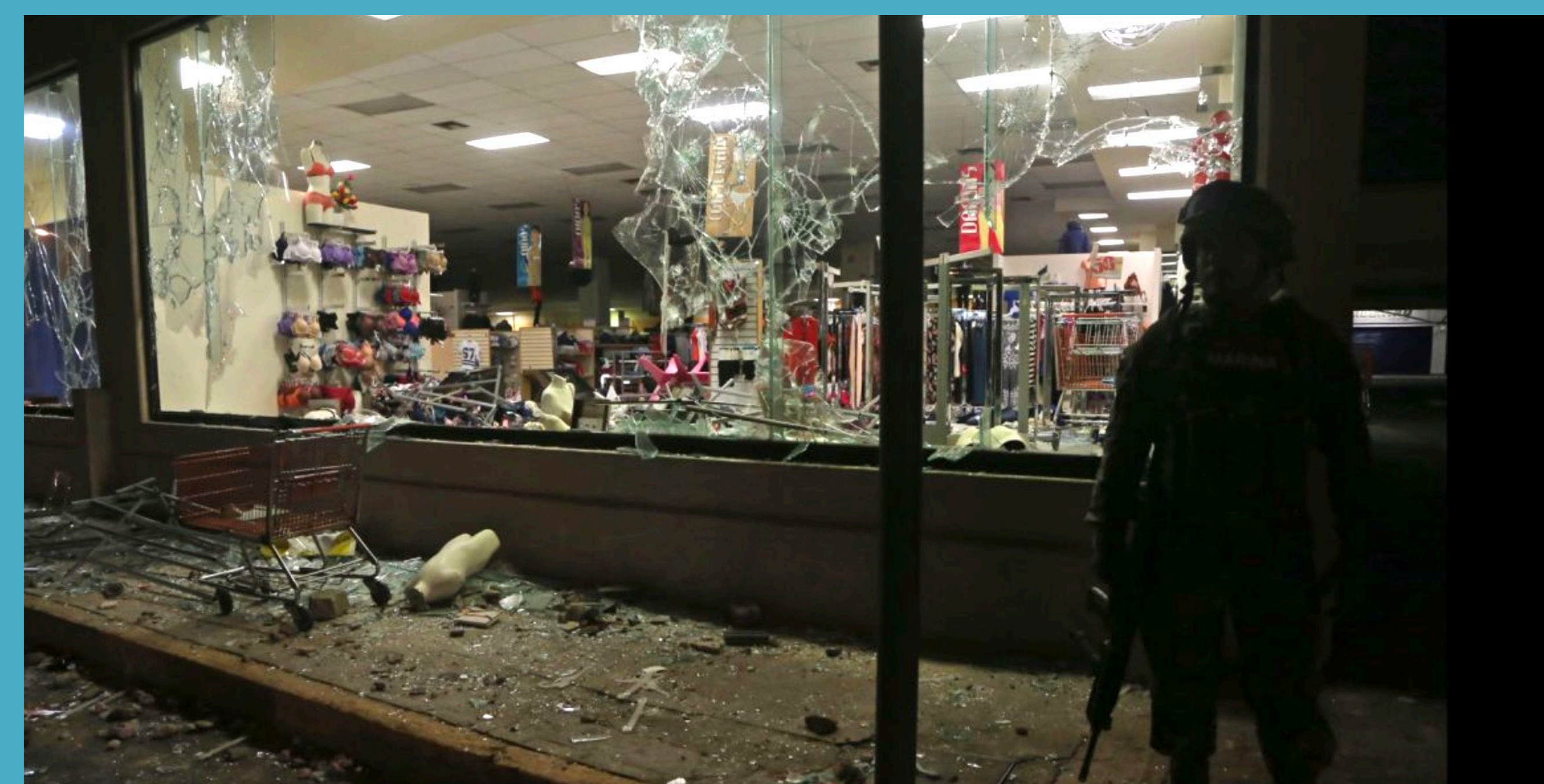
1. *This is Not Propaganda* by Peter Pomerantsev displays examples of political figures rising to power as a result of disinformation.
2. I used a psychological theory known as the Dual-Process theory to analyze stories from the journalist, Pomerantsev (Pennycook and Rand 2021).
3. Clear patterns emerged when analyzing these stories about how deliberation relates to the rate at which false news stories are spread and believed.

RESULTS

1. Duterte enlisted people to help him manipulate the public by linking all recent crime stories to drug dealers despite its accuracy causing the mass death of alleged drug dealers (Pomerantsev 2019).
2. Similarly, in Mexico there were peaceful protesters who were led into the police and portrayed as violent (Pomerantsev 2019).

This is Not Propaganda by Peter Pomerantsev demonstrates a pattern of disinformation illustrated by a lack of deliberation when interpreting news from authority figures

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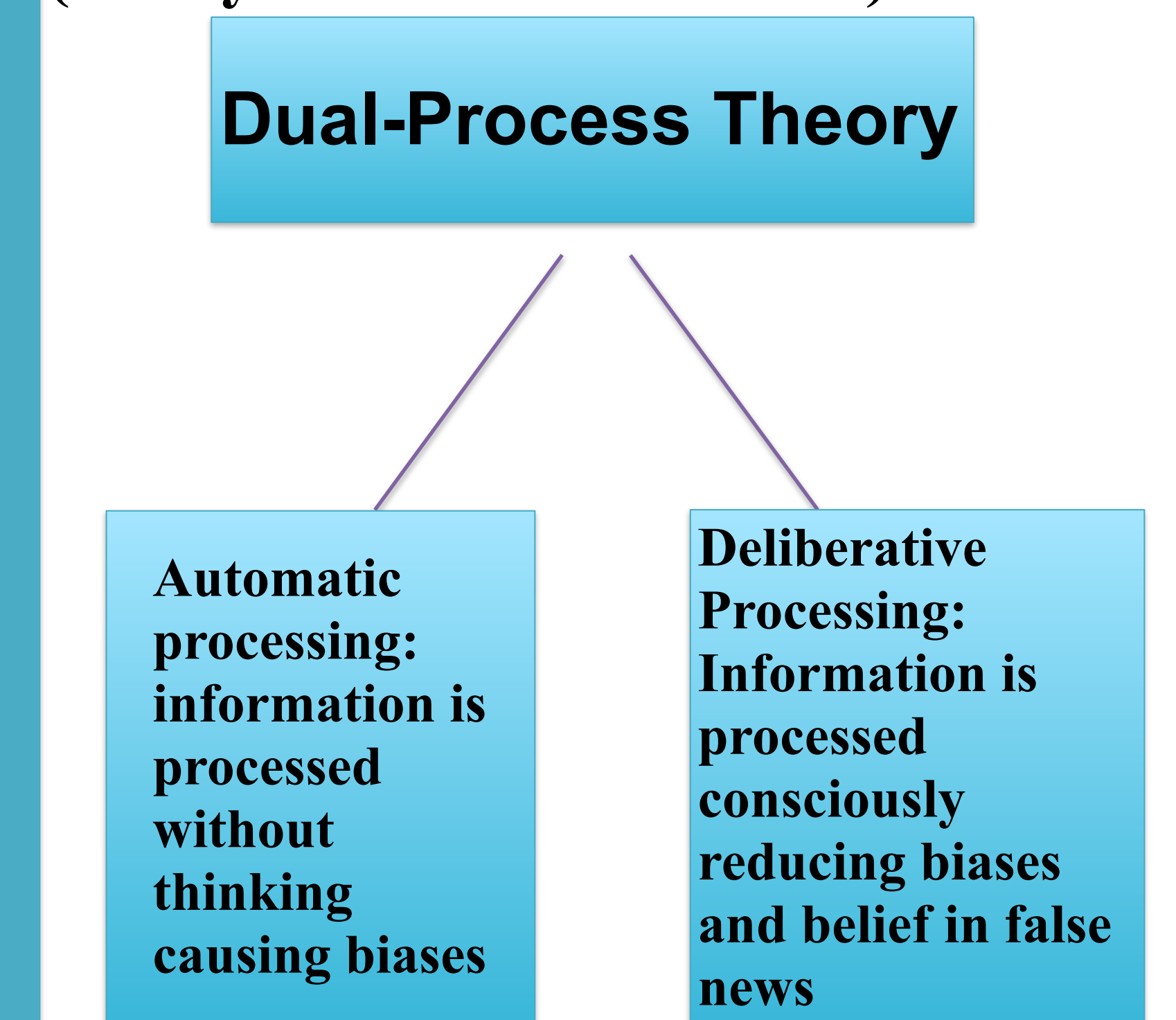


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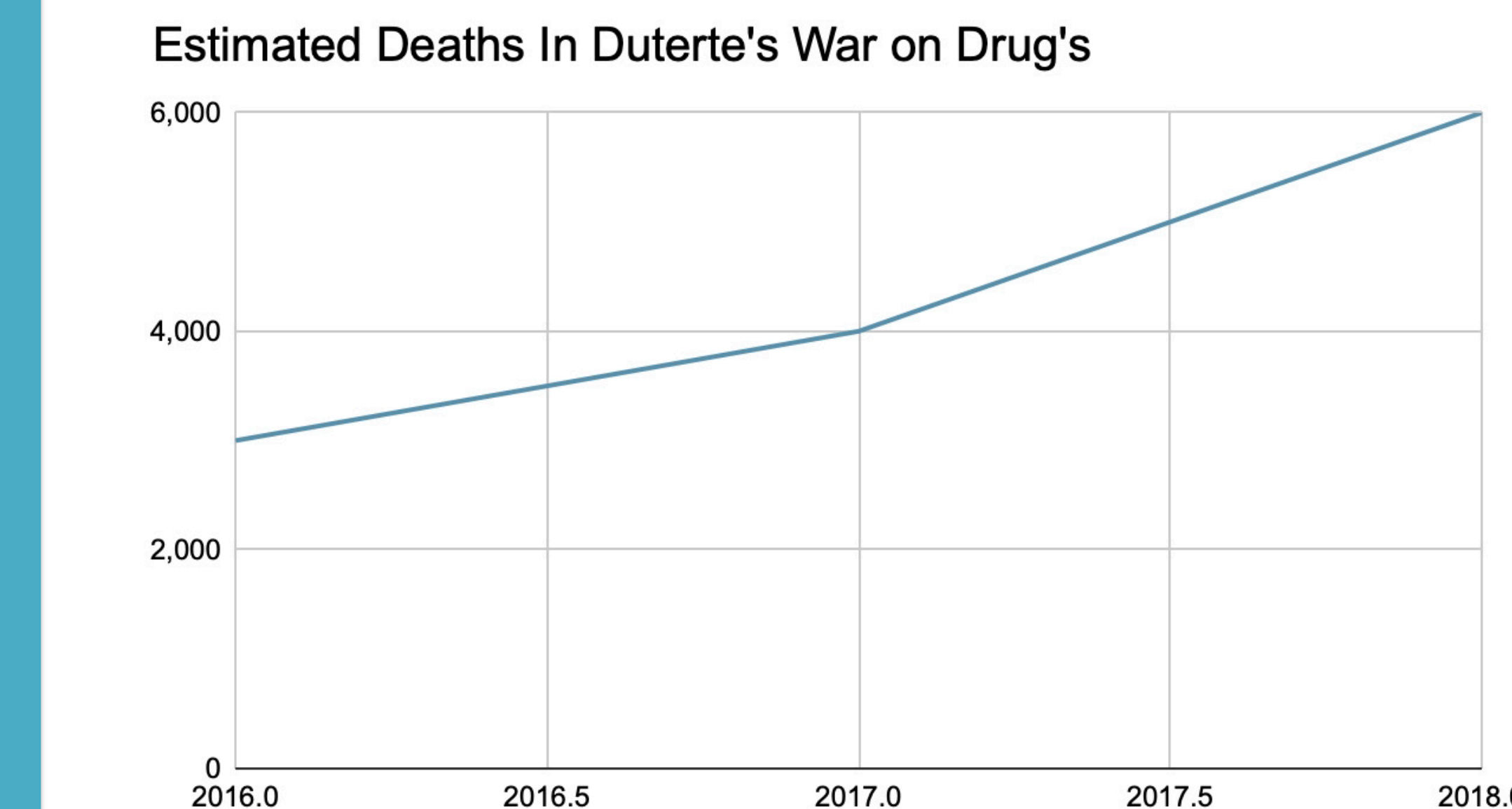
WHAT IS DELIBERATION?

It is best described through the dual-process theory, a model based on cognition.

(Pennycook and Rand 2021)



They refer to these atrocities as drug relates killings. However, these deaths were of alleged drug users/dealers without legal confirmation. (Pomerantsev (2019).



Police officers took pictures in front of broken store windows to portray protests as violent when in reality, they were peaceful until police involvement (Kenny and Holmes 2020)

DISCUSSION

This pattern points to the possibility of deliberation allowing for disinformation to be spread and believed at lower rates Currently, people are quick to believe information from authority figures causing violence and misinterpretation of people's motives and events taking place.

CONCLUSION

This is important in the scholarly field of disinformation because it provides potential solutions for how to prevent disinformation spread through psychological principles.